

REMARKS

Independent claim 25 and its dependent claims 26-43 have been prepared to satisfy the Examiner's rejections for indefiniteness and objections due to informalities, as well as to better distinguish over U.S. Patent No. 5,905,719 to Arnold and International Application No. WO 00/72572 to Malcolm.

Claim 25 recites, among other things, that each user traveling through a venue carries a portable, mobile unit 10. A plurality of access nodes 150, 152, 154, 156 of a local area network (LAN) is positioned throughout the venue. Each access node is in communication with different content providers 160, 162, 164, 166 each having a content database 170, 172, 174, 176. After associating the mobile unit with one of the access nodes, and after authenticating the user of the mobile unit, wireless communication is established between the mobile unit and a respective content provider, thereby allowing a respective database to be accessed, and its content retrieved. Particulars of this communication are then recorded.

Turning first to Arnold, there is no disclosure or suggestion that users are traveling through a venue throughout which a plurality of access nodes are positioned. Nor is there any disclosure or suggestion that users are carrying the computers 2 from one base station 6 to another base station 6. Indeed, the opposite is true, since the base stations 6 of Arnold are 16 miles apart (col. 4, lines 22-23). Arnold is concerned with wireless communication over a "wide area" network (col. 1, lines 7-8), whereas applicants are concerned with wireless communication over a "local area" network where users carrying their mobile units are traveling through a venue, such as a shopping mall, a hotel, an airport (see page 23, lines 2-3 of the specification).

Allowance of claims 25-43 is respectfully requested.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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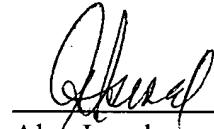
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